

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Elected claims 17, 18, 27 and 28 are replaced with new claims 34-51 to clarify the patentable subject matter of this invention. All claim elements are in non-means-plus-function format, and all steps are non-step-plus-function format. The non-elected claims are hereby canceled, with preservation of all rights in a divisional application thereto.

A proposed change to Fig. 5, labeling it "prior art" is submitted herewith.

The specification has been amended to overcome the informalities noted in the office action.

Elected claims 17, 18, 23, 25, 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over USPN 5844918 to Kato. Insofar as this reference may be applied against the new claims, the Applicants respectfully traverse.

In Figs. 4 and 5, Kato discloses a hybrid FEC/ARQ communication system, in which basic transmission data is segmented and a CRC code is attached to the back end of each of the data segments. The blocks having the CRC bits attached are

not concatenated. Packet headers are added to the front ends of the CRC blocks. The packets are stored and transmitted.

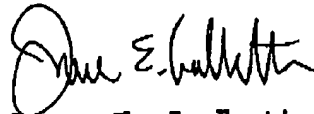
In contrast, the present claims call for, in order, attachment of a CRC bit to a plurality of transport blocks, concatenation of the transport blocks having the CRC bit attached, segmentation of the concatenated transport block, and addition of an ECC to each segmented code block, wherein the segmentation unit adds at least one predetermined bit to the beginning of one of the code blocks. Thus, the CRC bits are attached prior to concatenation and segmentation, and the at least one predetermined bit is added to the beginning of a code block.

From the above, it is apparent that Kato fails to disclose or suggest the features of the present claims, i.e., a concatenating unit that concatenates the transport blocks having the CRC-bit, a code block segmentation unit that segments the concatenated transport block into code blocks, and an error correcting coding unit that encodes each of the code blocks, wherein the segmentation unit adds at least one predetermined bit to the beginning of one of the code blocks.

Accordingly, due to the above-noted features, the present claims are allowable over Kato, and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain that may be best resolved through a telephone communication, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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